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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 DRC-01 /112 W
---------- 060798
R 171351Z MAY 74
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9623
INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES
AMCONSUL LUANDA
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT PU
SUBJ: ROUNDUP OF POST-COUP DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGUESE GUINEA

SUMMARY: POLITICAL LIFE IN GUINEA REVIVING IN COUP AFTERMATH, WITH CONSTITUTION OF AT LEAST THREE POLITICAL GROUPINGS. BETTENCOURT RODRIGUES, FORMER CINC AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNOR, REMOVED FROM OFFICE BY REGIME, WITH HIS JOB SPLIT INTO CIVIL AND MILITARY COMPONENTS, BOTH HEADED BY MILITARY OFFICERS. PRESS REPORTS RELEASE OF CERTAIN POLITICAL PRISONERS, BUT PAIGC COMBATANTS STILL JAILED. MFA DELEGATE BRUNO WARNED PROVINCE'S MILITARY LEADERS TO GUARD AGAINST ECONOMIC COUNTERATTACK FROM UNSPECIFIED ENEMIES. END SUMMARY.

1. SOON AFTER NEWS SUCCESS APRIL 25 COUP REACHED GUINEA, PROVINCIAL GOVERNOR AND CINC GEN. BETTENCOURT RODRIGUES DISMISSED BY MFA AND FLOWN TO TEMPORARY EXILE TO CAPE VERDE, ACCOMPANIED BY A NUMBER OF AIDES AND SENIOR
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MILITARY OFFICIALS. COMMODORE ALMEIDA BRANDAO ASSUMED

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INTERIM COMMAND ARMED FORCES THERE ON APRIL 26, AND
LTCOL ANTONIO MATEUS DA SILVA BECAME TEMPORARY CIVIL
GOVERNOR.

2. MAYDAY IN GUINEA WITNESSED A 2100 CURFEW, BUT EXCEPT
FOR SOME HOSTILE DEMONSTRATIONS AT LOCAL DGS HEADQUARTERS,
NO ACTS OF VIOLENCE OCCURRED. NINETEEN POLITICAL
PRISONERS RELEASED ON MAY 5. PAIGC PRISNOERS, HOWEVER,
NOT GRANTED FREEDOM, ALTHOUGH LOCAL ARMED FORCES REVEALED
IN COMMUNIQUE THAT SANITARY, FOOD, AND HOUSING CONDITIONS
OF PAIGC PRISONERS WOULD BE REVIEWED IN ORDER ASSURE
STANDARDS UP TO LEVELS REQUIRED BY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS.

3. ON MAY 7, LTCOL CARLOS SOARES FABIAO, JUNTA
DELEGATE AND NEW PROVINCIAL CIVIL GOVERNOR, ARRIVED IN
BISSAU ACCOMPANIED BY SPINOLA AIDE LTCOL ALMEIDA
BRUNO. FABIAO HAS LIVED 12 YEARS IN PROVINCE AND SERVED
PREVIOUSLY IN GUINEA UNDER SPINOLA AS COMMANDER OF LOCAL
AFRICAN MILITIA. IN ARRIVAL STATEMENT FABIAO REMINDED
ASSEMBLED PROVINCIAL LEADERS THAT IT WAS IN GUINEA THAT
GENERAL SPINOLA DEVELOPED HIS PROGRAM FOR SOLUTION
PRESSING NATIONAL PROBLEMS. MADE POINT THAT ONLY
LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT IS ONE FREELY ACCEPTED BY INHABITANTS.
TOLD GUINEANS THAT THEY, REGARDLESS OF SOCIAL CLASS,
SHOULD COME TO HIM WITH THEIR PROBLEMS, WHICH HE PROMISED
TO TRY TO RESOLVE. URGED GUINEANS TO UNITE IN ORDER TO
CREATE "A GUINEA GOVERNED BY GUINEANS". FABIAO PROMISED
TO "AFRICANIZE GUINEA" AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE
IN ORDER ACHIEVE COMPLETE DECOLONIZATION, WHICH HE ASSERTED
WILL OCCUR WHEN "COLONIZERS AND COLONIZED ACHIEVE SAME
SOCIO-CULTURAL LEVEL". FUTURE LINE OF CONDUCT, SAID
GOVERNOR, WILL BE DEVELOPED AFTER POPULAR OPINIONS HEARD,
AND WILL BE "PRESENTED FOR PEOPLE'S APPROVAL". ULTIMATE
GOAL "A BETTER GUINEA WITHIN A PERMANENTLY RENEWED
PORTUGAL".

4. LTCOL BRUNO, WHO SPENT FEW DAYS IN BISSAU BEFORE
RETURNING TO METROPOLE, TOLD PROVINCIAL MILITARY LEADERS
MAY 9 THAT THEY CHARGED WITH ENSURING THAT POLITICIANS
CONFORM TO MFA PROGRAM, AND WITH WARDING OFF ATTEMPT AT
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COUNTERATTACK BY ECONOMIC ELITE. ALL MILITARY OFFICIALS
MUST TAKE A POSITION, WARNED BRUNO, AS NO ROOM EXISTS FOR
NEUTRALS IN POST-COUP ERA.

5.ON POLITICAL FRONT, FORMER GUINEAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
DEPUTY MARTINS NUNES TOLD EMBOFF APRIL 27 THAT HE INTENDED
REVIVE MORIBUND LIGA POPULAR DOS GUINEUS (LPG) AS NATIVE
GUINEAN ALTERNATIVE TO PAIGC. NUNES INTIMATED LIGA ENJOYS

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SUPPORT OF SPINOLA FOR ITS PROGRAM WHICH INTER ALIA,
SEEKS REMOVE CAPE VERDEANS FROM HIGH ADMINISTRATIVE
POSITIONS IN BISSAU (REPLACING THEM WITH GUINEANS),
AND TO GARNER SUPPORT FOR NON-VIOLENT SOLUTION TO PROVINCE'S
PROBLEMS. ULTIMATE GOAL SOUGHT BY NUNES IS GUINEA LINKED
IN FEDERATION TO PORTUGAL BUT ADMINISTERED BY GUINEANS.
PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT REVIVAL LIGA MADE MAY 3 AFTER NUNES
MEETING WITH SPINOLA (FOR DETAILS SEE LISBON A-63).

6. SOON AFTER ESTABLISHMENT OF LIGA ANNOUNCED, RIVAL
MOVIMENTO DEMOCRATICO DE GUINE (MDG) CREATED IN BISSAU
AND LEGALIZED BY FABIAO (MAY 11). MOVEMENT'S PROGRAM MUCH
LIKE LIGA'S IN THAT IT SUPPORTS NON-VIOLENCE AND INCREASED
ADMINISTRATIVE ROLE FOR INDIGENOUS POPULATION. HOWEVER,
SPECIFIC POSSIBILITY THAT PEOPLE MIGHT CHOOSE INDEPENDENCE
NOTED IN PROGRAM. GROUP EMPHASIZES IT OUT TO DEFEND
PROPERTY OF WHITES AND "SITUATION" OF LOCAL BUSINESSMEN.
LEADER THIS MOVEMENT IS ANTONIO BATICA FERREIRA, A
CONSERVATIVE GUINEAN PHYSICIAN WORKING IN LISBON.

7. PAIGC REACTION TO ESTABLISHMENT LPG AND MDG RAPID AND
NEGATIVE. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE PAIGC ISSUED COMMUNIQUE
MAY 13 FROM ALGIERS REAFFIRMING ITS CREDENTIALS AS ONLY
REPRESENTATIVE PEOPLE GUINEA BISSAU AND ONLY GROUP
RECOGNIZED BY OAU. WARNED GUINEANS AGAINST APPEARANCE
"SO-CALLED NATIONALIST GROUPS CREATED AT LAST MOMENT AND
SUPPORTED BY FOREIGNERS". ACCORDING PRESS REPORTS NEXT
DAY CROWD 5000 DEMONSTRATED PEACEFULLY IN FRONT GOVERNMENT
PALACE IN BISSAU IN FAVOR PAIGC AND AGAINST NEO-COLONOLISM.
PRO-PAIGC POLITICAL PARTY, ABOUT WHICH DETAILS UNAVAILABLE,
AND CALLING ITSELF "MOVIMENTO ANTI-MANFREDO" CREATED
SAME DAY IN BISSAU.

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8. COMMENT: FOR FIRST TIME IN MEMORY OVERT POLITICAL
ACTIVITY UNDERWAY IN GUINEA. BOTH LPG AND MDG MUST
OVERCOME ACUTE DISADVANTAGE OF STARTING LATE AGAINST
FOREIGN SUPPORTED AND BASED PAIGC RIVAL.
  DIFFICULT JUDGE EXTENT TO WHICH NATIONALIST (READ
NON-CAPE VERDEAN) APPEAL OF THESE NEW "SONS OF GUINEA"
GROUPS WILL EVOKE FAVORABLE RESPONSE FROM MASS OF
INDIGENOUS POPULATION.
SCOTT

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